

In the Claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all of the rejected claims pending in the application are included below. The rejected claims are shown in their present state after the entering of the unentered amendment previously filed on August 18, 1999. The request to enter the unentered amendment was made in the continuation prosecution application filed on September 20, 1999.

What is claimed is:

8. A coded image capture and decoding system comprising:
 - a remote capture unit comprising:
 - an image processing circuit that generates a plurality of coded images;
 - an image buffer, coupled to the image processing circuit, that stores the plurality of coded images generated by the image processing circuit; and
 - a host unit comprising:
 - a processing circuit that performs decode processing of coded images;
 - interface circuitry that assists in delivering the plurality of coded images to the processing circuit from the remote capture unit for decoding after the plurality of coded images have been stored in the image buffer.
9. The coded image capture and decoding system of claim 8, further comprising an optical system operably coupled to the image processing circuit, wherein the optical

system reads a target to produce image data and transmits the image data to the image processing circuit.

10. The coded image capture and decoding system of claim 8 wherein at least one of the plurality of coded images constitutes a reference image and at least one other of the plurality of coded images constitutes a plurality of differences based on comparison with the reference image.

11. The coded image capture and decoding system of claim 10 further comprising a proximity detector that enables operation of the coded image capture and decoding system whenever a target is detected.

12. The coded image capture and decoding system of claim 8 wherein proximity screening rules are applied by the image processing circuit.

13. The coded image capture and decoding system of claim 8, further wherein the image processing circuit attempts to generate a predetermined number of coded images.

14. The coded image capture and decoding system of claim 8 wherein at least one of the coded images comprises a plurality of values, and each value represents a transition point in the image.